THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • JULY 7, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

ILAIYARAAJA

P T USHA

VIJAYENDRA PRASAD

VEERENDRA HEGGADE

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SCINDIA GETS STEEL

With ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and R C P Singh resigning as their Rajya Sabha terms are ending, Prime Minister Narendra Modi redistributed their portfolios. While minority affairs went to Smriti Irani, Jyotiraditya Scindia got Steel. Naqvi is in the race for a Constitutional post

Ilaiyaraaja, Heggade among 4 nominated to Rajya Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CELEBRATED music composer Ilaiyaraaja and veteran athlete P T Usha are among the four personalities who got nominated to the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka, Veerendra Heggade and popular screen writer V Vijayendra Prasad were the other two Presidential nominees to the Upper House.

By picking iconic figures from four Southern states, the BJP government has accelerated its 'Mission South' programme.

It is also perceived as a major South push by the BJP, which is looking to expand its footprints in the region.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Usha is an inspiration for every Indian. "The remarkable PT Usha Ji is an inspiration for every Indian," said Modi. Usha, also called Payyoli Express was awarded the Padma Shri in 1985.

Congratulating Padma Vibhushan awardee Ilaiyaraaja, Modi said, "The creative genius of Ilaiyaraaja Ji has enthralled people across generations. His works beautifully reflect many emotions. What is equally inspiring is his life journey - he rose from a humble background and achieved so much."

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

A man stands by a blocked road following a landslide due to heavy rain, near Malana in Kullu district on Wednesday | PTI

7 DEAD IN HIMACHAL CLOUDBURST

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

AT least seven persons were feared dead in separate incidents of flash floods triggered by a cloudburst at dawn in a Kullu village of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

At Manikaran in Kullu district, at least four people were washed away and the bridge across Parvati River damaged following the cloud burst. Three other persons are feared drowned in separate parts of Kullu district.

Besides, some 25 employees working at the Malana power project in the district were rescued from a building that was damaged by flash floods. A few camping sites and cafes, too, were washed away in the Kasol area in the floods. A rescue team bound was stuck on the Kasol-Jaimala road following a landslide.

Meanwhile, floodgates of the Larje and Pandoh dams are being opened and people living in downstream areas have been put on alert.

State Disaster Management Director Sudesh Mokhta said four to six persons have been missing after the cloudburst at Chojh village in Challal panchayat of Kullu around 6 am.

Superintendent of Police of Kullu Gurdev Sharma said a bridge across Parvati River was also damaged and four persons have been reported missing ever since. Also, a woman died while two others were injured as a huge boulder fell on their car following a landslide near the Dhalli tunnel in Shimla.

Cost of living goes up as LPG price hiked yet again

Cooking gas price up by ₹50 per cylinder; total hike in 1 yr rises to ₹244

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a move that could worsen the financial burden of the common man, oil marketing companies on Wednesday jacked up cooking gas price by ₹50 per cylinder. This is the eighth hike in the past one year and the cumulative increase shot up to ₹244 on Wednesday.

Following the hike, a 14.2-kg non-subsidised LPG cylinder costs ₹1,053 in Delhi, ₹1,052.50 in Mumbai, ₹1,079 in Kolkata and ₹1,068.50 in Chennai.

Notably, the price of commercial cylinders (19 kg) used in restaurants has been reduced by ₹8.50.

The unrelenting increase in cooking gas prices could have wider ramifications as 70% households use LPG as primary cooking fuel.

This is the fourth increase in the rate of cooking gas since the Russia and Ukraine war. The oil retailers increased LPG price by ₹50 each on March 22 and May 7. Then they effected another ₹3.50 rise on May 19.

Thankfully, there has been no revision on petrol and diesel prices for the past three months. The price of transport fuel froze after hiking a record ₹10 per litre in just 16 days beginning March 22, 2022. Then, on May 21, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cut the excise duty on petrol by ₹8 per litre and on diesel by ₹6. She also announced a subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for nine crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme.

Price of a non-subsidised 14.2-kg LPG cylinder

Date	Delhi	Kolkata	Mumbai	Chennai
July 1, 2021	834.50	861	834.50	850.50
Aug 17, 2021	859.50	886	859.50	875.50
Sep 1, 2021	884.50	911	884.50	900.50
Oct 6, 2021	899.50	926	899.50	915.50
Mar 22, 2022	949.50	976	949.50	965.50
May 7, 2022	999.50	1,026	999.50	1,015.50
May 19, 2022	1,003	1,029	1,002.50	1,018.50
July 1, 2022	1,053	1,079	1,052.50	1,068.50

Figures in ₹

The reason for the continuous hike in fuel prices is the strengthening of energy prices in the international market and LPG price is influenced by crude prices in the international market. Experts believe the hike was necessitated because retail selling price is not in tandem with that of crude oil.

The latest price hike has drawn criticism from the Opposition parties. The Congress termed it an "anti-people" decision and said the BJP-led government at the Centre is running a "bulldozer of inflation" over people's budget.

SNEAKING IN

Intruder at INS Kadamba arrested

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Karwar

A man who tried to sneak into INS Kadamba naval base in Karwar claiming that he is a naval officer has been arrested. The accused Kiran S R, a native of Gajanur village in Thirthahalli taluk in Shivamogga, tried to enter the base by posing as a probationary lieutenant officer.

"Kiran produced a fake identity card, which had a self-created number on it. He produced the documents at the main gate of the naval base which gave rise to suspicion, leading to his arrest," sources said. Kiran claimed that he was appointed by the Human Resources and Planning Directorate who asked him to report to duty.

Suman Pennekar, Superintendent of Police, Uttara Kannada confirmed to The New Indian Express that Kiran has been arrested and the documents which he was carrying have been seized. "We have recovered a fake identity card and a pair of uniforms from him," she said.

Pennekar added, "There appears to be no motive of sabotage. He was staying in Karwar for the last six months and had been lying to his family that he was an officer. When his family wanted to visit him he tried to enter the base to prove that he was indeed working there." Naval base authorities said they were not aware of the arrest.

Intentional Rahul byte mess? Zee sacks two

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow/ New Delhi/Raipur

WHILE Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan is under fire for airing a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on July 1, it now transpires that two producers of the show could have "knowingly and intentionally" created that mischief.

The Noida Police's FIR is based on Zee Media's complaint, which said its senior producer Narinder Singh and trainee producer Bikash Kumar Jha received a video feed of Rahul's statement on the attack on his constituency office in Wayanad, Kerala by SFI workers. But due to "oversight and inadvertence", Rahul's statement was presented in its show as if he was referring to the Udaipur murder.

Zee's internal inquiry fixed responsibility and sacked them, the complaint said. It went on to allege that the byte mix-up could have been intentional. However, the Noida Police are yet to question the duo.

Ranjan was initially not named as an accused in the FIR. His name was added later. The FIR was lodged at 8.33 am and the anchor was picked up from his Ghaziabad home around 9 am.

A Chhattisgarh police team that was waiting outside his house since 5.30 am to arrest him was foiled by the Ghaziabad Police till the Noida Police turned up and left with Ranjan.

Ranjan has since been released on bail. He moved the Supreme Court seeking protection from coercive action. "List it tomorrow," a vacation bench said when senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for him, sought urgent hearing.

Over 10L children out of school in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WHOPPING 10,12,800 children are out of schools and anganwadis in the state, reveals data submitted by the state government to the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday. The data was collected during a first-of-its kind, door-to-door survey conducted across the state.

Of these children, 4,54,238 are in the 0-3 age group, while 5,33,206 are 4-6 year olds. Among children in the age group of 6-14, 15,338 are out of school, while 10,018 never enrolled in schools. Of the total population of 17,70,081 children in the 0-18 age category, 2,73,936 (0-3 years) and 3,02,088 children (4-6 years) never enrolled in anganwadis. Of 11,83,929 children in the age group of 6-14 who enrolled in schools, 2,162 have dropped out. Another 1,545 never enrolled in schools.

The survey was conducted in rural, urban areas and in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike limits by the Department of Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK) following directions from the high court on a suo motu public interest litigation initiated in 2013 to bring children, who have dropped out, back to school. As compared to both rural and urban areas, the number of out-of-school children is the highest in BBMP limits.

In urban areas, excluding BBMP, of 13,73,921 children in the age group of 0-18, 87,294 (0-3 years) and 1,23,329 children (4-6 years) did not get enrolled to anganwadis. In all, 2,798 children in the 6-14-year age group are out of school, while 3,225 never enrolled.

In rural areas, of the total population of 35,24,260 children, 93,008 in the 0-3 year age group, and 1,07,789 children aged four to six years did not enrol to anganwadis. In the 6-14 age category, of the 27,11,479 children who enrolled, 10,378 are out of school. Another 5,248 never got enrolled in schools. **P5**

Steps should be taken to evolve measures to either set up sufficient anganwadis or to ensure that children aged 0-6 years are provided the option of enrolling into anganwadis — KN Phanindra, Amicus Curiae

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 5 **8,80,841 doses**
July 6 **10,05,886 doses**
TOTAL 108,31,850

NATION WIDE	JULY 5	JULY 6	KARNATAKA	JULY 5	JULY 6
Fresh cases	13,086	16,159	Fresh cases	839	1127
Recoveries	12,656	15,194	Recoveries	913	1044
Deaths	18	28	Deaths	2	0

Chess Olympiad gets extra large

Preparations for the upcoming Chess Olympiad in Mahabalipuram are ticking along. A look at the specifics and numbers involved

Two venues, one of them a wedding hall

In all, matches will go on simultaneously in two halls, including a wedding venue that's being repurposed for the Olympiad. While that will be the main hall, a bigger structure is being built next to it. It's approximately about 44,000 sq. ft. Both of them will be soundproof

DRY RUN ON 24th Officials have set a target of completely finishing the temporary structure by July 15. There will be a one-day rating event on July 24 involving some 1,400 players | P15 **JULY 28th OPENING CEREMONY**

700 boards

Both venues put together will have 700 games (175 matches) on a daily basis. In all, that will translate to about 2800 players. Apart from that, there will be a ticketed viewing gallery for spectators to watch the games as well as a VIP enclosure

B'luru tops in leasing office space in 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S booming tech industry has directly contributed to an increase in residential and office spaces in the city. According to a report released by Knight Frank India, an international property consultancy agency, the city has accounted for 31 per cent of the country's office transactions in the first half of 2022. In addition, Bengaluru has also registered a 117 per cent increase in transactions related to office space going from 3.6 million sq ft in 2021 to 7.7 million sq ft in 2022. Meanwhile, residential sales went up by 80 per cent, despite Covid-19, adding 21,223 units in the city.

Proposal for self OC gathers steam

Bengaluru: After rolling out the self assessment scheme for paying property taxes, the urban development department (UDD) and BBMP are proposing self assessment certification for obtaining occupancy certificate (OC). **P2**

The report titled 'India Real Estate: H1 2022' analyses and records residential and office market highlights in eight major cities in the country for the first half of the year from January to June. It attributes the increase in Bengaluru's housing and office market to the working population slowly shifting back to working from their offices. The report also found that hiring had gone up by 35 per cent in the city between January and May, which may have contributed to the demand for an office.

"We expect the momentum to continue as the physical occupancy rates are expected to pick up," said Shantanu Mazumder, Knight Frank India, Bengaluru.

Guruji's murder over assets: Assailants

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @ Hubballi

TWO former employees of Vastu expert Chandrashekhar Guruji, who was stabbed to death at a hotel in Hubballi on Tuesday, have confessed to the police that they murdered him over a property dispute.

The accused Mahantesh Shirur and Manjunath Marewada who brutally murdered Sarala Vastu firm head Chandrashekhar Guruji and were nabbed within four hours of the crime have been remanded to police custody for six days by a court on Wednesday. Both had fled from the spot and were nabbed by the police near Ramdurg in Belagavi district.

Police said Guruji had started a real estate business and used to construct houses and apartments as per Vastu, which is in huge demand by people. Guruji's firm, which has offices in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hubballi and other cities, made huge sums of money and also had disproportionate assets in the name of his employees, including one of the assailants Mahantesh. Properties worth crores of rupees were registered in the name of Mahantesh Shirur, who looked after Guruji's finances. **CONTINUED ON P5**

EXPRESS READ

Bagalkot tense as 3 stabbed over FB post

Bagalkot: Three people were stabbed when two groups belonging to different communities clashed at the bus-stand in Kerur town near Badami. The incident took place when one of the victims tried to file a police complaint against a woman doctor over her Facebook post slamming BJP's Nupur Sharma's controversial statement. **P5**

BBMP bans namaz on roads during Bakrid

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Girinath has said that namaz will not be allowed to be performed on roads and at traffic junctions during Bakrid, which falls on July 10. On the Chamarajpete Idgah Maidan, he said namaz can be performed at the disputed area as there is a clear direction from the Supreme Court on the issue. **P2**

8 INCIDENTS IN 18 DAYS, DGCA SLAPS NOTICE ON SPICEJET

A day after SpiceJet reported two major technical glitches on its aircraft mid-air, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to the budget carrier.

NUPTIALS

Wedding bells again for Punjab CM Mann

Bhagwant Mann

Dr Gurpreet Kaur

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann (48) is all set to enter matrimony in a simple ceremony with Dr Gurpreet Kaur here on Thursday. This will be Mann's second marriage.

Gurpreet (32) completed her MBBS from Maharishi Markandeshwar University at Mullana in Haryana in 2018. She hails from Pehowa in Kurukshetra district but now lives at Rajpura in Punjab. Gurpreet is the youngest of three sisters. Her other siblings are settled in the US and Australia, while her uncle (father's younger brother) is an AAP leader.

Sources said both families knew each other for quite some time. Mann and Gurpreet have been interacting for more than a year now. Gurpreet is a friend of Mann's sister Manpreet Kaur. It was Mann's mother Harpal Kaur who chose her to be her daughter-in-law.

In 2015, Mann divorced his first wife Inderpreet Kaur. She now lives in the US along with their two children Dilshan and Seerat. Both children attended the swearing-in ceremony of Mann at Khatkar Kalan in March this year.

Around 80 people are expected for the event, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. An *Anand Karaj* (Sikh marriage ceremony) is likely to be held at the CM's official residence or at a gurdwara.